

What is claimed is:

1. A composition comprising a plurality of zinc glycerolate particles, wherein said plurality of zinc glycerolate particles have a mean particle length of between about 0.70 microns and about 1.0 microns.
2. The composition of claim 1, wherein said plurality of zinc glycerolate particles have a median particle length of between about 0.60 microns and about 0.75 microns.
3. The composition of claim 1, wherein at least about 75% of said plurality of zinc glycerolate particles have a particle length of between about 0.80 microns and 1.1 microns.
4. The composition of claim 1, wherein at least about 25% of said plurality of zinc glycerolate particles have a particle length of between about 0.4 microns and about 0.6 microns.
5. The composition of claim 1, wherein said zinc-glycerolate particles are present in said composition in an amount of between about 1% and about 50% by weight of the total weight of the composition.
6. The composition of claim 1, further comprising at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
7. The composition of claim 6, wherein said plurality of zinc glycerolate particles are present in said composition in an amount of between about 1% and about 50% by weight of the total weight of the composition.
8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a plurality of zinc glycerolate particles, wherein said plurality of zinc glycerolate particles have a mean particle length of between about 0.70 microns and about 1.0 microns, and
a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
9. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 8, wherein said plurality of zinc glycerolate particles are present in the composition in a therapeutically effective amount for the treatment or prevention of a topical disease or condition selected from the group consisting of: eczema, diaper rash, poison ivy, poison oak, psoriasis, genital herpes, chicken

pox, shingles, impetigo, tinea, acne, Candida, thrush, burns, cuts, scraps, decubitus ulcers, hemorrhoids, sunburn, dry lips, chapped lips, weather damaged lips, and cold sores.

10. A topical composition comprising a plurality of zinc glycerolate particles, wherein said plurality of zinc glycerolate particles have a mean particle length of between about 0.70 microns and about 1.0 microns, and

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier suitable for application of the topical composition to skin as a therapeutic, prophylactic, or cosmetic substance.

11. A pharmaceutical composition for use in treating or preventing skin disorders or diseases in a mammal by topical administration to the skin, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of zinc glycerolate particles, wherein said zinc glycerolate particles have a mean particle length of between about 0.70 microns and about 1.0 microns, and
a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier suitable for topical administration.

12. A skin protectant comprising about 1 % to about 40 % by weight of zinc glycerolate particles, wherein said zinc glycerolate particles have a mean particle length of between about 0.70 microns and about 1.0 microns,
and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

13. A method for treating topical diseases or conditions in a patient in need of such treatment, comprising topically administering to the skin a composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of zinc glycerolate particles, wherein said plurality of zinc glycerolate particles have a mean particle length of between about 0.70 microns and about 1.0 microns.

14. The method of 13, wherein the patient is a human.

15. The method of 13, wherein the method for treating topical diseases or conditions is a method for treating herpetic diseases.

16. A method for preventing topical diseases or conditions in a patient susceptible to developing topical diseases or conditions, comprising topically administering to the skin of said patient a composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of zinc glycerolate particles and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier

wherein said zinc glycerolate particles have a mean particle length of between about 0.70 microns and about 1.0 microns.

17. A method for providing temporary protection to skin of a patient in need of such treatment, comprising topically administering to the skin a composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of zinc glycerolate particles

wherein said zinc glycerolate particles have a mean particle length of between about 0.70 microns and about 1.0 microns.

18. A method for treating fever blisters and cold sores in a human in need of such treatment, comprising topically administering a composition comprising between about 1 percent and about 40 percent w/w of zinc glycerolate particles and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier suitable for topical application of the composition;

wherein said zinc glycerolate particles have a mean particle length of between about 0.70 microns and about 1.0 microns.